

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 CEA-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 FRB-01 OPIC-06
DOEE-00 OIC-02 /138 W
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P 131844Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8563

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OECD, TGEN
SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: 1979 PROGRAM
PROPOSALS. PERMEDELS-SECRETARIAT MEETING MARCH 13,
1978.

REF: (A) ENV (78) 8 - 1979 PROGRAM PROPOSALS
(B) STATE 062427

1. SUMMARY. MEETING WELL ATTENDED BY MEMBER-COUNTRY
PERMEDELS. REF (A) WAS BASIS OF DISCUSSION. MAIN
THEMES OF DISCUSSION: (A) GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH
ABSENCE OF DETAILS ON RESOURCE ALLOCATION, (B) HIGH
INTEREST IN CHEMICALS, BUT GENERAL DESIRE NOT TO CARRY
OUT NEW PROJECTS AT EXPENSE OF ONGOING PRIORITY AREAS,
(C) CONSENSUS THAT STREAMLINING OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES
COULD FREE RESOURCES FOR NEW PROJECTS. DEPARTMENT'S
GUIDANCE PER REF (B) USED IN FULL. END SUMMARY.

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2. TWENTY PERMEDELS ATTENDED MAR 13 MEETING (ABSENTEES:
DENMARK, ICELAND, IRELAND, LUXEMBURG, SWEDEN). AMONG
THOSE PRESENT, ONLY NON-SPEAKERS WERE: AUSTRIA, GREECE,
SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA. SECRETARIAT WAS ALSO
WELL REPRESENTED BY: RODERICK, SCIMEMI, POTIER,
KUEHNEMANN, WALLENBERG, SMETS, FEYPELL.

3. AT OUTSET, GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED AT ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON RESOURCES. MOST SPEAKERS MADE POINT THAT RATIONAL DECISIONS ON 1979 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WOULD BE SERIOUSLY INHIBITED BY LACK OF FIGURES ON MAN-MONTHS SCHEDULED FOR EACH PROJECT. IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO U.S., RODERICK STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, AT END OF MORNING, AND IN THE FACE OF VERY NEGATIVE, IF COURTEOUS, REACTION BY MOST PERMDELS, HE UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO INFORM DELEGATIONS SOONEST WITH RESPECT TO THE RESULT. MISSION WILL IN TURN INFORM THE DEPARTMENT AND RESPOND TO THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS AT A HIGHER LEVEL, IF APPROPRIATE.

4. THE MATTER OF INCREASED RESOURCES FOR THE CHEMICALS PROGRAM RESOLVED ITSELF INTO A DISCUSSION OF HOW TO PROVIDE THEM. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM, BUT EQUALLY THERE IS AN EXTREME RELUCTANCE TO CURTAIL ONGOING PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS PROJECTS. PART II BUDGET MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE BEST MECHANISM, BUT A DECISION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE STOCKHOLM MEETING. IT IS CLEAR, THOUGH, THAT THE CHEMICALS PROGRAM, IF IT STAYS IN PART UNCLASSIFIED

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I, WILL ABSORB AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT BUDGET, LARGELY AT THE EXPENSE OF NEW PROJECTS AND OF THE AIR, WATER AND URBAN SECTOR PROGRAMS. JUDGING BY THE STATEMENTS OF PERMDELS, MANY WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS, THIS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE.

5. IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION, A CONSENSUS DEVELOPED IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING THE WATER AND URBAN ACTIVITIES. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW PROJECTS IN MANY CASES DID NO MORE THAN TO REINSTATE THOSE ACTIVITIES IN THE URBAN AND WATER MANAGEMENT FIELDS THAT HAD BEEN RELEGATED TO ANNEX II OF REF (A). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION (TFP) ACTIVITIES WAS MANIFEST, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNED WITH LEGAL IMPLICATIONS. (THE

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AUSTRALIAN PERMDEL FOR INSTANCE, PROPOSED OFFICIALLY THAT TFP PROJECTS BE TRANSFERRED TO PART II, WHICH WOULD FREE RESOURCES FOR THE REMAINING PART I PROJECTS IN OTHER FIELDS.)

6. THERE WERE SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON DETAILS OF THE 1979 PROGRAM PER REF (A), BUT THE MAIN THRUST OF PERMDELS' REACTIONS WAS TO INSIST ON PHASING OUT OF LOWER PRIORITY ITEMS, COMBINING OF ACTIVITIES WHERE POSSIBLE, ALL OF WHICH ILLUSTRATED OR AMPLIFIED THE POINTS MADE IN REF (B). RODERICK PROMISED THAT ALL PERMDEL COMMENTS WOULD BE SUMMARIZED AND CIRCULATED TO DELEGATIONS AS AN ADVANCE COMMITTEE-ROOM DOCUMENT, HOPEFULLY WITHIN TEN DAYS.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: (A) CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMEN. FAIRCLOUGH (UK) IS WILLING TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM AS CHAIRMAN, PORTUGAL AND JAPAN WILL HOLD THEIR VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS FOR ANOTHER YEAR. LYKKE (NORWAY) MAY WITHDRAW IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER SCANDINAVIAN. ARMSTRONG (CANADA), IS IN THE RUNNING FOR THE U.S. SEAT VACATED
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BY GRANT. (B) CHAIRMEN OF SECTOR AND OTHER SUB-GROUPS ARE INVITED TO THE APRIL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, AT COUNTRY EXPENSE. (C) AN EXTENDED BUREAU

MEETING (ALL COUNTRIES ARE INVITED) IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27 TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL (SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THIS EVENT). THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION BY EXTENDED BUREAU WILL BE: (A) OUTLINE OF PAPER FOR MINISTERIAL ROUND-TABLE ON "ANTICIPATORY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES"; (B) OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE DECLARATION BY MINISTERS; (C) FIRST DISCUSSION ON AREAS WHERE MINISTERS MIGHT AGREE ON ACTION PROPOSALS OR RECOMMENDATIONS. (D) METHODOLOGY FOR FOLLOW-UP TO 1974 MINISTERIAL ACTION PROPOSALS; (E) PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES, CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMEN.
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